

Lord! how great I used to think anybody just landed at the Christopher," begins Horace Walpole in a letter to Montagu, dated from this house.

Barrie's Pool bridge which crosses a small water-course a few yards S. of the chapel marks the boundary of the College domain.

The parish Church (St. John) was originally only a chapel-of-ease, as the College chapel continued to be used by the parishioners. It was first erected in 1769 by William Hetherington, Fellow of Eton, and was rebuilt in 1854. In 1875 it was made a parish church, and ecclesiastical connection between the College and the town came to an end. The E. window is a memorial to the late Prince Consort. The old registers which belonged to the College chapel contains a list of those touched for the King's Evil from 1686—1688.

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## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

THE MYTH OF THE PENT CUCKOO: By the Rev. JOHN EDWARD FIELD, M.A. Subscriber's Price, 7s. 6d. net.—We desire to call attention to this work by an esteemed contributor to this Journal. The Myth appears to embody the gibe of a racial feud between aliens and natives, and there are good grounds for thinking that both this, as it is current in England, and also the designation of the Cuckoo-Pens are to be interpreted in connection with the Saxon invasion, while the name of the Cuckoo has come in merely through a popular corruption which admits of a simple and reasonable explanation. Kindred myths of the pent owl, the impounded crow, and the cooped dabchick, found in isolated instances, are examined side by side with the more widely known story. Of all the tales which the folk-lore of our country has handed down, this Cuckoo-myth is certainly one of the most curious and interesting. And the district of the Cuckoo-Pens is full of associations which have an attractive charm to the tourist

and the holiday-maker, as well as abundant interest to the historian and the antiquary. It is hoped, therefore, that both the general reader and the student may find in this work something that deserves attention. The subject would have been worthy of a technical treatise for the study of antiquarian readers; but it has seemed desirable to treat it in a popular way, and to introduce a variety of illustrative matter, in the hope that this may commend it to the wider circle of readers who care for the old tales and legends of our land and for objects of general interest in its antiquities. Those who are interested in the work are requested to write at once to the Author or to the Publisher, Mr. Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

**BRASS AT TIDMARSH.**—The last number of *The Journal*, p. 104, fig. 42, contains an illustration of a brass to a member of the Leynham family in Tidmarsh Church, which is attributed to Robert Leynham. This is an error, the brass really represents Henry Leynham, Esq., lord of the Manor, who died in 1517. The inscription was in existence in 1595 when Nicholas Charles, the herald, visited both the manor house and the church. He described the brass with its heraldry and gives a transcript of the inscription thus: "Hic jac: Henr: Leynh'm ar: dn's de Tydm'she qui ob: XVIth die mens' Augusti anno d'ni 1517 cuius a'ie, etc." Charles' notes are preserved in the British Museum, Lansdowne MS. 874, fol. 151.—MILL STEPHENSON.

**EXTRACT FROM AN OLD DOCUMENT.**—"1671. May 16th. Recital of Agreement of Marriage between Zachary Keame of Brightwell, Co. of Berks, and Mary widow of Thomas Wing of Mackney in the said parish; also

Schedule of Inventory of her farm stock, implements, and household goods and chattels. Appraised by William Spooner and John Leaver.

Imprimis ffowre horses .. .. . £20

Seven cows .. .. . £20

Two other horses and a colt, five hogges, a long cart and a dung cart, a plough and set of harness and bells, fowre harrows and a roll, valued at .. .. . £10

ffowre bedsteads, two feather beds, two flock beds, twelve pairs of sheets, two tables, six red cloth chairs, eight joint stools, two pairs of handirons, two pairs of doggs, fire shovels, tongs, sixteen pewter dishes, twelve pottingers, seaven saucers, three brass kettles, two brass pots, three brass skillets on furnace, a brass basin, a great bible, and divers other goods all valued at .. .. £30

Total .. .. £80."

**NETTLEBED WINDMILL.**—One of the most conspicuous landmarks in the Oxfordshire Chilterns is the Windmill at Nettlebed, of which the impending removal is announced in the local newspapers. It occupies the highest summit in South Oxfordshire, at an elevation of 820 feet. It is said to have been built at first below Watlington, but in a position where it could not catch sufficient wind. The owner therefore moved it to Nettlebed, placing the trunk of it on two timber carriages drawn by sixteen horses. On reaching the top of the hill the carriages broke down and the mill rolled over just at the place where it was to be fixed. This was about 1823 or 1824.—J.E.F.

Since the above note was written this conspicuous landmark has been destroyed by fire.

PREHISTORIC RING COINAGE.—The following is from *The Standard* of October 16th: "A fine specimen of prehistoric ring coinage has been found by an Oxfordshire farmer in a field at Westfield. The coin, which has the general appearance of a curled caterpillar, has a solid gold matrix with regular traverse belts of a silver alloy. Its total weight is 9 dwt. Similar coins, belonging to the end of the Bronze age (500—300 B.C.), figure amongst the collections in the Gold Room of the British Museum, but the present find is the first of its kind to be recorded in the South Midlands."

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### Queries.

Whitchurch-on-Thames,

Reading, April 8th, 1912.

AN OLD ROAD.—You doubtless know the old Packhorse track, or Bridle way, from near Caversham Church, through The Warren, through Mapledurham, and through Whitchurch, to Goring and Crowmarsh. It is, of course, now, a hard road between Caversham and Whitchurch.

I want to ask you, if you could refer me to the *name, or names of the Authors*, of any old Books, Maps, or descriptions of the district, in which I should be likely to find a clue as to the status, importance, or evidence of the general use of this old road many years ago.

And if so, if you know of any copy of such book, map, etc., available locally, or in the British Museum.

H. J. HOLMES.

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## Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Society has during this Winter Session been very much favoured in its lecturers. Miss Swann, who had promised a lecture on Ancient Costumes, was unfortunately prevented by family bereavement from visiting us, but her paper has been postponed until the autumn.

The third meeting of the Winter Session was held at the Abbey Gate, on Thursday, January 18th, when a lecture was given by Mrs. Hautenville Cope, on "Pedigrees and Genealogy." The Society is not often favoured with a lecture delivered by a lady Member. Mrs. Cope is the authoress of a learned work on "How to Decipher Ancient Documents." She has transcribed many Berkshire Registers, and showed herself an authority on the subject of pedigree hunting. Tea was provided after the lecture by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes.

The fourth meeting was held at the Abbey Gate, on Friday, February 16th, when a lecture was given by E. Guy Dawber, Esq., on "Fountains," illustrated by lantern slides. Mr. Guy Dawber's name is well known as one of the leading architectural experts of the day, whose numerous books on architectural studies